

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method for processing an image signal,  
in which method input image information for an input  
image is converted into an image forming controlling  
signal for an image forming apparatus, said method  
10 comprising the step of:

(a) controlling a conversion from said input  
image information into said image forming controlling  
signal based on a type of a drawing object for the input  
image and background information for a background where  
15 the drawing object is formed.

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2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein  
said background information indicates an average of  
background colors in an area where said drawing object  
is formed.

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3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein  
said background information indicates a value based on  
5 an appearance frequency, as a reference, of a single  
color forming image in an area where said drawing object  
is formed.

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4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein  
when said image information for said drawing object  
indicates black or white, said conversion to the image  
15 forming controlling signal based on said background  
information is not controlled.

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5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein  
when a color difference between color information for  
said drawing object and background information in an  
area where said drawing object is formed is smaller than  
25 a predetermined color difference, said conversion into

the image forming controlling signal based on said background information is controlled.

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6. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said predetermined color difference is defined based on a character type, a character size, a character style, a character color, a line type, a line thickness and a part of or the entire line color.

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7. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said input image is a color image and said image forming apparatus is a color image forming apparatus, and said step (a) comprises the step of (b) correcting a color, in said input image, located outside of a color reproduction range of said color image forming apparatus to another color located inside of the color reproduction range.

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8. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein  
said step (b) controls a direction to compress and map a  
5 color, in said input image, located outside of said  
color reproduction range to another color located inside  
of said color reproduction ranges based on the type of  
the drawing object for said input image and the  
background information where said drawing object is  
10 formed.

9. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein  
said step (b) controls the direction to compress and map  
the color within a range from a direction maintaining a  
hue and a brightness to another direction maintaining a  
saturation.

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10. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein  
25 said background information indicates an average of the

background colors in an area where said drawing object  
is formed.

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11. An apparatus for processing an image  
signal, in which apparatus input image information for  
an input image is converted into an image forming  
10 controlling signal for an image forming apparatus, said  
apparatus comprising:

an object type determining part determining a  
type of a drawing object for an input image;

a background color information extracting part  
15 extracting background information for a background where  
said drawing object is formed; and

a controlling part controlling a conversion  
from said input image information into said image  
forming controlling signal based on the type of the  
20 drawing object and the background information.

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12. The apparatus as claimed in claim 11,

wherein:

said input image is a color image and said image forming apparatus is a color image forming apparatus; and

5           said controlling part comprises a color correcting part correcting a color, in said input image, located outside of a color reproduction range of said color image forming apparatus to another color located inside of the color reproduction range.

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13. The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said color correcting part controls a direction  
15 to compress and map a color, in said input image, located outside of said color reproduction range to another color located inside of said color reproduction range based on the type of the drawing object for said input image and the background information where said  
20 drawing object is formed.

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14. A computer-readable recording medium

recorded with a program for causing a computer to  
process an image signal, in which computer input image  
information for an input image is converted into an  
image forming controlling signal for an image forming  
5 apparatus, said program comprising the codes of:

(a) determining a type of a drawing object for  
said input image;

(b) extracting background information for a  
background where said drawing object is formed; and

10 (c) controlling a conversion from said input  
image information into said image forming controlling  
signal based on the type of the drawing object and the  
background information.

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15. A computer-readable recording medium  
recorded with a program for causing a computer to  
20 process an image signal, in which computer input image  
information for an input image is converted into an  
image forming controlling signal for an image forming  
apparatus, said program comprising the codes of:

(a) determining a type of a drawing object for  
25 said input image;

(b) extracting background information for a background where said drawing object is formed; and

(c) controlling a direction to compress and map a color, in said input image, located outside of  
5 said color reproduction range to another color located inside of said color reproduction ranges based on the type of the drawing object and the background information.